OLD LONGSIGHT NEWS

NO. 1 AUG. '74

THE PLAYGROUND THAT NEVER WAS

ON OTHER PAGES

SUMMER PLAYSCHEMES ... P.2

HOME IMPROVEMENT HARDSHIPS ... P.3

CHESS FANS LEAVE SNOOKER HALL .. P.4

CLEARANCE AREA LATEST ... P.5

FEWER-CARS CAMPAIGNS ... Pp.6&7

ADVICE, ADVERTS ... BACK PAGE

SEE WHY WE PUBLISH ... P.2

SCENE: Spare land opposite the Anson Hotel

Act I Aug 1973. Application made for Parks Department to make it into a playground.

Act II March 74. Director of Parks, Mr Bee, promises a playground and invites residents to send in their ideas to his staff who will draw up plans.

Act III The Anson Tenants are told the Parks Dept has acquired the land off the Education.
They keep trying to contact the person responsible in the Parks to tell him their ideas and make sure it's going all right but every time they ring up, they are put off and told to ring back later.
Messages are taken but not passed on Promises are made but not carried out.
A change of staff results in a new man being responsible for the project and he does nothing about it. Meanwhile the Tenants don't know this as they cannot get an answer out of the Parks.

ACT IV. The Bombshell: It is learnt that all the budget for this year has been allocated, and this playground was not even considered. The Parks Dept did not even ask the Recreation Committee to vote some money for this play area.
Later at a meeting in the Parks building in Crown Square the Tenants learn that the Parks never aquired the land - although the Education did write and offer it to them - and that plans were never prepared, in fact nothing at all had been done.

Who's to blame?

When finally tracked down, the person in the Parks Dept responsible for the playground said "It is up to the Planning Dept to prepare plans, and also to convince us that there is an urgent need in your area." If this had been done he would have put it forward to the Recreation Committee in time for it to be considered. A check with the Planning Dept reveals that they played their part months ago; the person in the Parks Dept originally dealing with it was fully aware of the need; and they had their own staff for preparing plans as explained by Mr Bee in his letter in March

The Final Act

THE FINAL ACT has not yet taken place. A letter with 30 signatures went to Mr. Bee asking him to get money from the Government (called an Urban Aid grant). The letter was followed by an insistent phone call, and the Parks Dept. finally decided to apply for the money. The Government will announce in December whether it will grant it or not.

That means the ground will lie idle all summer. Could the residents not themselves start the playgound off in the meantime?

STREET ACTION N°5

Mothers and children in Clitheroe Rd, Driscoll St and Duncan Rd carried out their fifth attempt on Tues 16th July, to persuade evening rush hour traffic from using their streets as short cuts cuts; already this year 2 small children have been knocked down on Clitheroe Rd.

The residents painted large signs saying "No Left Turns Please - Too Many Cars" and "No Left Turn, Children Play Here".

They held them up on Hamilton Rd at the entry to 4 streets (residents from Slade Grove and Palm St also joined in).

The demonstrators gave leaflets to those drivers who ignored the signs, and a reinforcement at the temporary traffic lights at the Slade Lane end of Hamilton Rd pointed out with leaflets and signs that commuters are not welcome on Hamilton Rd either.

FOR THE HOLIDAYS...

Manchester Corporation now run only 2 campsites (there used to be 3) for the city's more than 100,000 children.

Even the 2 remaining camps may be on their last legs because there is no strong bunch of councillors fighting for their survival.

For many children however these few tents and huts are the only holiday they ever get. In March this year residents from our area enquired at the Education Dept and were told not surprisingly that the 2 camps were booked up.

There is a playscheme in Victoria Park

At Plymouth Grove Junior School Nursery, there will be an adventure play-scheme for 5 - 13 year-olds.

From 12th - 23rd August

There's a lot of traffic between Beresford Rd, Hamilton Rd and Plymouth Grove so if children from this area are to get to the playscheme they will have to be escorted. There will be no van. Alix Otten is willing to organise a rota if people will contact her at 168 Hamilton Rd.

Each day's play is from 10am-3pm

Kanta Walker who is helping run the playscheme, wants help from mothers or teenagers during the 2 weeks. It's hard, enjoyable work

Children must bring food if they are to eat at lunchtime, because there is no meal centre.

There is also a Play Centre

(Education Dept) in CROWCROFT PARK
For 5 - 11 year olds.
This will run for 3 weeks starting 29th July

and a Summer School

In the Church of the Latter Day Saints, Beresford Road.
From 5th - 9th August.
9.30am - 12noon.
Achievements night, Friday 7.30pm
For 5 - 13 year-olds.
2p a day.

PROOF THAT THE STREET ACTIONS HAVE WORKED!

A traffic-count was made in July last year and again recently after the above street-action. By comparing the two we can see whether all the road-blocks, signs and leaflets have had any affect.

Early results are:
Between 4.30 -6.00pm

1973 Non-local vehicles on Clitheroe Rd....63
1974.....38

1973 Through vehicles on Duncan Rd.....90
1974 51

1973 Hamilton Rd from Manchester.....525
1974 495

(a drop of 81 cars, when you allow for 51 not short-cutting through sidestreets from Ham.Rd → Sladeha.) And not even counting an expected annual increase.)

1973 Hamilton Rd towards Manchester...179
1974 248

(an increase of 50% - partly due to roadworks on Slade Lane, partly to the usual annual increase).

WHY WE PUBLISH

Sometimes the M/c Evening News, or Granada or Radio Manchester will not print your letter or come out and report your story. You may be saying things too close to the bone, or too "ordinary" for them.
We want to publish a local paper where you can get publicity for your case, or your point of view, or even your poetry, if you think it will help you.

Stories which just tell the facts will not usually be signed. But stories which include the writer's opinions will be either signed or initialled.

We will be slow to print extreme prejudice because despite further debate it usually does more harm than good, especially as the group which is prejudiced against (eg. children) sometimes cannot reply powerfully in writing.

- You can advertise free on the back page.
- You can send in your favourite cartoon.
- We hope to come out every 2 or 3 months.
- This issue was produced by Michael Brennan, Emma Gregson, Alix Otten and Maureen Thierens.
- Our expenses are:
  Photos.....£1
  Printing.....£16
  We're printing 600 copies. Say we sell all but 50 of them, that's 3p x 550 = £16.50!
  The extra 50p will come out of somebody's pocket.
- By "Old Longsight" is meant those parts of Longsight not redeveloped, and including the Anson Estate.
- **Please write or call if you have any news.**
- Our address is 168 Hamilton Rd

ANSON FIASCO

Some time in the June of 1973 we were told we were to be modernized, which would consist of gas central heating, fitted cupboards, sink units, new bathroom suites etc, and all brickwork to be plastered, and we were told the entire job would take approx 15 working days or 3 weeks and that this time would be rent-free for all inconvenience caused. After it had taken workmen over 3 months to work on an empty house and turn it into a show house, the officials changed the worktime from 15 working days to 7 or 8 weeks.

Then at the start of Sept 1973 the great day dawned for the beginning of the work, and to date, which is 10 MONTHS AFTER. some of the first houses are STILL waiting for jobs to be do done, such as toilet ventilators to be fitted, cupboards and doors made to close and numerous other small jobs.

During the 30 or so weeks it takes the bulk of the work to be completed we are undergoing such things as:
A. No hot water for up to 12 weeks

B. Doors and windows removed and boarded up for as much as 3 weeks, and in the winter months you had to keep warm as best you could.

C. Walls knocked down inside the house and bricks and builders' rubble in every room

D. Floorboards up and bare electric wires hanging for weeks.

E. No adequate heating (ie. a one-bar electric fire on loan from Wimpeys to heat the whole house).

Also gardens and pathways are dug up 3 or 4 times for new water drains

You are expected to take up all carpets and linos so the workmen can get at the floorboards and you have to carry on existing amongst all the mess for months, despite a 600-signature petition to the Town Hall for alternative accomodation for those that wanted it, particularly the elderly or with those with large families. This of course was turned down as the town hall said there were not enough houses empty on the estate despite the fact that there are over 30 empty, some have been that way for over 2 years.

The sum quoted to be spent on each house is £3,250 but the class of some of the work leaves this figure way out somewhere.

COMPLAINTS

Scores of complaints are still coming into the Tenants Association, for example:
A. Numerous bursts in new piping, as many as 4 in 1 week in 1 house, due to shoddy workmanship.

B. Sink units fitted over huge gaping holes in the floors.

C. New windows put into rotten window frames. Later on the direct works will renew the frames, but to do so they will also have to break hundreds of panes of glass. (Waste of ratepayers' money?)

D. Gardens, paths and roadways dug up and tarmacked 3 times in 2 weeks, by the water board, gas board and Wimpey men. (Wasted rates again.)

E. Tenants arriving home unexpectedly from work have found drunken men asleep on their beds, having baths and generally ransacking personal belongings.

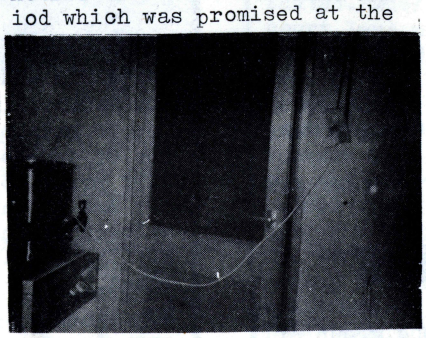
F. Weeks go by with no workmen whatsoever coming in and a family of 10 children had no hot water on for 14 weeks. To date 3 strikes have left people without adequate amenities for weeks.

If this was done by a private landlord there would be all hell let loose.
After various complaints from the tenants association to our respective councillors and MP about all our troubles, Councillor Muriel Pierce has been trying to get some of them ironed out. She has visited different homes to see what could be done, but even her powers are limited, and this course of action takes weeks.

It has now been brought to our notice that the rent-free period which was promised at the commencement of this fiasco, has been cancelled and we are not getting anything in the way of compensation, as we are to be fully decorated instead of the partial decoration which was first stated. This we think is a pretty raw deal as most people were counting on that money to replace linos ets which get damaged when taken up Also the choice of wallpapers has dropped from a selection of 22 rolls to 7 rolls for the entire estate, so everyone's house will look the same, and scream "council" from every wall.

The committe had a meeting with Gerald Kaufman MP about people's complaints and conditions and he has promised to get a meeting with himself, town hall officials and our committee to get all our problems ironed out one by one.

We did not ask for all this upheaval, it was thrust upon us with a "have it or get out" attitude, and the council imagine they are doing us a big favour by subjecting us to 30 or so weeks of misery. Make no mistake about it, when, and if, this project gets finished the rise in rents and rates will recoup them for what they have spent in next to no time and more besides



Hot water supply during improvement: a flex strung across the kitchen. Opening the door ...dous. in this family of 6 children.

STOP PRESS

When the Anson Tenants met the representatives of the Council and Wimpeys on 12th July (see above) they got the following:-

* 4 WEEKS RENT FREE to be guaranteed in writing.

* WIMPEYS TO BE PAID EXTRA TO MOVE FURNITURE and get carpets up for elderly people.

* ALL THE COMPLAINTS made in writing at the meeting on the 12th to be investigated.

* THE REST-HOUSE SCHEME for giving tenants whose houses are being worked-on a break, although not successful so far, will be examined by the Assist. Director of Housing.

* A DIRECT PHONE LINK between the tenants and Wimpeys.

— M.T.

CHESS AND THE SNOOKER CLUB

Ronnie Delaney, manager of Riley's Snooker Hall, Slade Lane, speaks with Michael Brennan.

MB: The Sports Centre planned for the new Longsight District Centre has been postponed for 10 years because the councillors want to spend our money instead on new roads and so on...This means that your snooker club is the biggest indoor games centre in Longsight.
RD: Yes, looks like it.
MB: How many members are on the books?
RD: Getting on for 900.

MB: How many of these are women?
RD: 4 or 5. One or two come in and play.
But they can only come in if they want to play. We don't have that rule for men. There's always trouble where there are women because blokes show off when they're around.
MB: Isn't it a bit unfair to penalize the women just because the blokes can't keep their cool?
RD: This isn't a social club. First and foremost it's a man's club. Just as you wouldn't find men trying to join a knitting club. Women don't want to play snooker.

MB: How many people does the club employ?
RD: Six, either full or part-time.

MB: And are you looking for new members?
RD: New members are always welcome. You don't need a cue coming here, we loan them free. I don't think people know that.
MB: You run 17 tables, how much do you charge?
RD: 52p or 60p an hour depending on the table.

CHANGES

MB: Have Riley's ever considered expanding here?
RD: They have plans to change it. There's going to be a bar, table tennis tables, chess and all that. We're taking out 6 of the snooker tables. The table tennis will be split off from the rest probably. I've seen it done that way in Glasgow.

MB: I'd like to ask you about these changes. Would table tennis and chess, for example, be paid for?
RD: Yes, probably something like half a dollar for a chessboard.
MB: Who decides what new sports will go into the club when the changes are made?
RD: Riley's.
(Head office in Accrington, Riley's run snooker clubs as a business in 14 towns.)
MB: Can members make suggestions?
RD: These would have to go to the committee. If a member wrote his own letter to Riley's it would be ignored.
MB: Who has said there will be chess in the new plans?
RD: Me. I mentioned it to one of the men from Riley's, it's not down in writing.

MB: Bars usually mean trouble and late hours. Is it worth it?
RD: At Bolton the bar has a turnover of £1,300 a week. You can't make that kind of money on our tea counter.
MB: Is there commission for you on the takings?
RD: Yes.

THE CHESS PROBLEM

MB: Up to recently there was a strong group of chess fans here playing on the tea tables. Most were club members. Why was it stopped?
RD: It was causing a disturbance. Some of the young black lads were making a lot of noise, shouting and so on, playing chess in the evenings. We tried to run it part time, but it didn't work so we stopped it altogether.
MB: I heard that after you cut it down to part time, the chess boards were taken away by those who owned them and that's why it stopped?
RD: No.

MB: There is a committee of members here. Isn't that the kind of decision which the committee should should make?
RD: It's the kind of decision which I should make and I made it.
MB: It has been said that one of Riley's directors called in and saw empty snooker tables and a crowd around the chess and that's why it was cut down. Is that true?
RD: You can say that it's not true. There was no money coming from the chess. The same blokes playing snooker would be paying for it, which is another reason I stopped the chess.

MB: How often does the committee here meet?
RD: It hasn't met for about 6 months.
MB: How would ordinary members get it to meet to consider their suggestions or complaints?
RD: They'd ask me and I'd see the blokes. This is a bad time of year, some of them are on holidays.
MB: If the members wrote a letter?
RD: If they wrote, I suppose so. Their suggestion would have to be passed by the committee and then by me.
MB: Is a new committee elected each year at an Annual Meeting?
RD: The committee only started last year, and it was started by me.
MB: Riley's run this club to make a profit. They also make the rules. Would it be better if it was owned by local people, through the committee; and run principally not to make a profit but to provide entertainment?
RD: No, it wouldn't work. They'd never afford to buy it and Riley's wouldn't sell it.

UNDER VOTING AGE

MB: Can young kids come in and play
RD: They can come in at any age as long as they're with parents.
MB: A few come in who are not with parents?
RD: Definitely not during school hours.
MB: Do kids under 18 pay the same as those over?
RD: Of course they do. I wouldn't want them in for half price because they still take up a table.
MB: And if there was a bar would under-18s be allowed in the club?
RD: They would probably be allowed in at certain times.

MB: Finally, is anyone barred from membership on grounds of religion, politics, or the colour of their face?
RD: No, you only have to come into the club to see.
MB: Thanks for answering the questions.

SLUM CONDITIONS IN DUNCAN RD.

We reprint a letter sent to the Corporation last month by a resident of Duncan Rd:

"To the Town Clerk 14 June 74

Dear Sir,

35 Duncan Rd

Three to four months ago the Health Dept received a complaint by telephone regarding the above house, owned by Wheeler Wood & Redmond of King St, M/c. 2 days later an inspection was made. 5 to 6 weeks after the inspection workmen came to repair the roof. The workmen said they would return to continue the work, although they also said the roof was too high. They have not returned. The rain is still coming through into rooms used as bedrooms. The house is in the Slade Grove/Slade Lane Clearance Area. The result of the Public Inquiry has not been announced, and even when it is announced, rehousing could take 18 months.

In view of this, certain serious defects ought to receive attention:-

1. Leaking roofs, causing raining-in in attic bedroom
2. Problems associated with lack of ventilation in kitchen. The window is not in operation. The ceiling above the back door is bulgedand there is damp and mould in this area. The plaster is in bad condition.
3. The front rainwater system is defective.
4. Dangerous window in back bedroom (first floor). Also plaster missing and defective skirting in this room.
5. Accumulations of rubbish in the cellar (used for access to meter) which has been there since before the present tenancy. Also rubbish in back yard.
6. Dangerous steps in cellar (again used for access to meter)

Could you please arrange an immediate inspection and inform me of what action you are taking on this matter. Advance notice of inspection would ensure that someone was in. "

LEGAL ACTION

Jack Wolstenholme, who has been involved in trying to make the town hall do something about the houses writes:

Every picture tells a story. The above picture tells a story of negligent penny-pinching landlords who have studiously ignored all appeals to honour their legal obligation to maintain their houses in a reasonable state of repair. It tells the story of thoroughly incompetent corporation officials failing to carry out their duty of compelling the landlords to comply with the law.

CLEARANCE AREA LATEST NEWS

The only recent information in writing about the future of the Slade Lane/Slade Grove Clearance Area is that contained in a letter from the Dept. of the Environment dated 3 July 1974. It was sent to a resident who wrote to Mr. Peacock the Inspector who visited the area in October last. It says:

" I am afraid there is very little I can add to my letter of 7 June to the Slade Lane Clearance Area Action Group (c/o Mr Otten) which you have seen. The report of the Inspector (Mr. Peacock) has not been received to date but is, I understand, in its final stages of preparation and will be made available to the Secretary of State as soon as practicably possible.

I can fully appreciate your concern over conditions in the area but can assure you that upon receipt of the Inspector's report every effort will be made to issue a decisin on the order at the earliest possible moment.

I am sorry that I cannot send you a more helpful reply."

The letter is signed "Nicholas D Jones" of Room 653 Dept. of Environment, Tothill Street, London SW1.

Our elected council, locked in fabulous dreams of how to extract 200 to 400 millions from reluctant taxpayers or ratepayers to further their pretentious road building schemes are much too busy to carry out their obligation to see that the Corporation does its duty properly.

The letter printed left is not an appeal. The time has gone for appeals which are useless anyhow in this deplorable city. This is the first shot in a campaign which will end up in the courts for either the landlords or the corporation, preferably both! No more shilly shallying; we mean business and these miserable landlords and this despicable Corporation had better look to their guns - if they have any! Both parties are in contempt of the law under both the Housing Act 1961 Section 32 and the Defective Premises Act 1972 Section 4. The letter is the first preliminary to legal action.

NO RENT

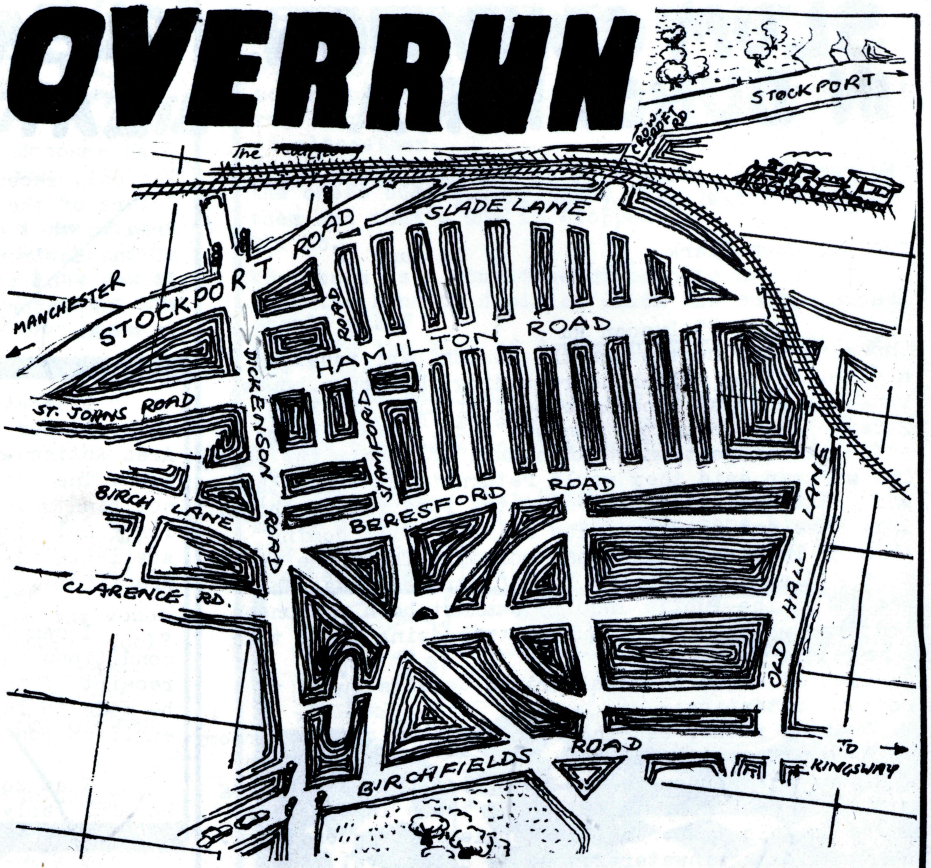
Another tenant in the same block stopped paying rent some time ago because his house was so dilapidated. When Wheeler, Wood and Redmond took him to court last month he paid a solicitor £10 to cross-summons them for neglecting the house so much that some of his belongings were destroyed by raining in. As a result it was agreed that he would recommence paying rent and pay £2 a week off arrears and that workmen would come round within a week.

But the only person to come was a contractor who looked around and said that the house was in danger of collapsing.

The tenant therefore stopped paying rent again seeing that Wheeler, Wood and Redmond fell down on their end of the bargain.

This tenant believes that if all the tenants were to act together in some way such as not paying rent they would get action from these agents rather quickly.

AREA OVERRUN



This area is said by many people to be coming near a slum. And it's not the people's fault. Lonsight has had to take whatever treatment has come its way: like wholesale demolition of vast areas of housing, some of it decent housing, and the people divided up and shipped off to various estates in and outside Manchester; "planners' blight" of another large area east of the railway where because of roads that might, but very likely won't, be built in 15 or 25 years time, houses are unsaleable and left to go derelict.

With some care going into it this could be a very liveable and loveable area. But it seems to be overlooked by the powers that be. There are almost no community facilities apart from what the churches provide, and these are used mainly by their parishioners. There are no play grounds. Numerous people have tried to get improvement grants for their houses and failed.

As for the traffic, people who live in much more "desirable" areas come speeding through here and think they have a right to ride roughshod over the residents if it saves them a few minutes on the way to work.

The through traffic means
- DANGER especially to kids and elderly people.

- FREQUENT ACCIDENTS because the roads are too narrow and the drivers too impatient.

- SPLITTING PEOPLE UP eg. Hamilton Rd is like the Berlin Wall, people on opposite sides don't get to know each other; children can't play with friends on the other side

-DAMAGE to houses as a resul of accidents and cracks in windows and ceilings because of the vibrations.
-CONTINUAL FEAR that one day someone we know will be killed

-STRESS to families where the younger children have to be kept in all day, and the older ones get out and you never know if they will be safe.

A.O.

RESIDENTS UNITE AGAINST TRAFFIC

A public meeting was held on May 8th last to discuss what could be done about the problems in the area from Birchfields Road to Slade Lane. A house-to-house survey had been done on Hamilton Road beforehand, which indicated very high support for some action to cut down the numbers of non-residential cars and lorries using streets throughout this area as a short cut.
During the meeting the Hamilton Road Area Traffic Action Group was formed.

WHAT THE GROUP IS DOING

1. Asked for a meeting with Mr Read, the City Engineer. He refused.

2. More luck with the Highways Committee who asked for views on the proposed lights at Hamilton Rd/Slade Lane & invited proposals for the area The group has sent in outline proposals but made it clear that these are only "provisional."

3. The main work of the group once it gets the go ahead from the council, will be to prepare a scheme for the whole area which will keep the non-local traffic at bay. As a first step a survey is being done on Beresford Rd and this will be extended to other streets. Then a picture can be worked out of the wishes of all the residents, & 2 or 3 possible schemes will be prepared and put to the vote. The winning scheme will be given to the town Hall.

4. Rate reductions. Forms are available if anyone wants to apply for a rates reduction on the grounds that the traffic is bringing the area down.

5. The MP and councillors have been asked to help.

MESSAGE from the Action Group

We are not connected with any political party. Our aim is simply the improvement of the locality.

Most of us live on Hamilton Rd. But we are very anxious to represent the good of the whole area. We would not suggest a solution to the particular problems of Hamilton Rd that just diverted the traffic onto, say, Beresford Rd.

Are you interested?
Do you have ideas to give us?
Do you have problems connected with the traffic?
Do you disagree with anything in these two pages?
What we fight for depends on you, so please contact us at:
10 Beresford Road
181 Hamilton Road
} evenings.

SIDE STREETS TAKE ACTION

In the sidestreets between Hamilton Rd and Slade Lane a campaign has been going on since October last to try to reduce the rush-hour traffic taking short-cuts. There have been petitions and letters to the Town Hall, and roadblocks and direct requests to the motorist - See Page 2.

A recent petition to the Lord Mayor (not yet handed to him) asks for Clitheroe Rd and Duncan Rd to be blocked off at their Slade Lane ends. The petition was signed by the majority of residents from these streets and from Driscoll St, including a majority of car-owners.

The Town Hall has plans to block-off Stamford Rd, Portland Rd and Slade Grove at their Stockport Rd ends, as soon as Stockport Rd is diverted and the present Stockport Rd paved over. It is therefore not so far-fetched an idea for them to block-off Clitheroe Rd and Duncan Rd (and Palm St, Hector Rd etc. if the residents there want that) at the Slade Lane end.

During the recent actions when motorists along Hamilton Rd have been leafletted, one person argued that a campaign should be got going to cut down the cars using her street as a short cut ie. on the other side of Hamilton Rd coming up from Beresford Rd.

Obviously, that's for the residents there to decide. But if the Hamilton Rd Area Traffic Action Group are successful, the affects should be felt throughout the whole area. It would help the general effort of that group if side street residents were to start up and carry out campaigns of their own.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

The Council has decided to put traffic lights in at the junction of Hamilton Rd and Slade Lane.

The Traffic Action Group makes these comments:

"The lights are intended to cut down on the number of vehicles cutting across from Hamilton Rd onto Slade Lane along the side-streets such as Slade Grove, Clitheroe Rd etc right up to Norburn Rd and St Agnes Rd. If they succeed in this the volume of traffic using the whole length of Hamilton Rd, already at an intolerable and dangerous level, will be increased even more.

However they are unlikely to succeed as rather than wait at the lights drivers will probably continue to cut through as they do at present, endangering residents on the side streets.

For the cost of this one small and comparitively useless measure - £4,660 - a really good comprehensive scheme designed for the sake of the resdidents rather than commuters and non-local lorry drivers, could be carried out eg. blocking off some or all of those side street at Slade Lane; or restricting access to Beresford Rd, Hamilton Rd and Birch Hall Lane."

Here are some extracts from a report of the City Engineer and the Chief Constable to the Highways Committee in February of this year. This was as a result of petitions sent to the Town Hall in November last. Following each extract is a comment by some of us involved in the side street issue.

5. There are two reasons why the Chief Constable does not consider a "Play Street" Order to be appropriate. First, the various streets concerned abut onto Slade Lane and Hamilton Road, which are both busy traffic routes and could create a potential hazard to children playing adjacent to those routes. Secondly, a "Play Street" Order is effective from 8.00 a.m. to sunset only and, as most of the traffic is using this road as a 'rat run' at evening peak periods, for a considerable number of weeks of the year, this Order would be inappropriate as sunset would fall before the evening peak period.

COMMENT → The original request did not mention a Play Street at all, only an Access Only Street. Some local people do not want official "Play Streets" because they fear these might attract too many kids from other streets. But surely kids would not cross the "Berlin Wall" of Hamilton Rd in large numbers? And surely they would stay in their own streets which they regard as play streets even now? But the real trouble with Play Streets is that so much red-tape surrounds them. The traffic problems of Clitheroe and Duncan Rds are not so special that they require specialised solutions. The problem is a coomon one and only needs an ordinary simple solution that everyone can understand, like blocking-off. In new estates it is taken for granted that the streets are all dead ends.

6. With regard to the introduction of a "Prohibition of Driving 'except for access'" Order the Chief Constable is of the opinion that the enforcement of such an Order would be difficult in view of the number of streets involved.

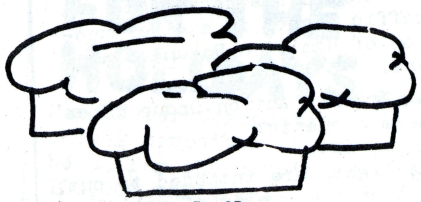
COMMENT → In other words, the motorists cannot be relied upon to obey "Access Only" signs. Simlarly it is true that motorists do not keep to the speed limits on any of our streets and that traffic is hazardous right now. The only definite solution is to put a barrier up.

7. The City Engineer considers that the most effective way of reducing the number of vehicles using the above streets would be to facilitate their exit from Hamilton Road into Slade Lane by the installation of traffic signals at that junction.

For a comment on this by the Hamilton Rd Area Action Group see top next column. M.B.

recipe corner

HOME MADE BREAD



3lb wholemeal flour
1¾ pints warm water
1 teaspoon sugar
1 ounce yeast
¾ ounce salt

Put the flour in a big mixing bowl and mix in the salt with it. Make a well in the middle of the flour and crumble the yeast into the well. Put in the teaspcon of sugar on top of the crumbled yeast. Pour all the water into the well. Put your hand in the water and rub the yeast in your fingers to make sure it dissolves.

Wait about 3 minutes while the yeast ferments and when it's finished bubbling, mix it all up into a dough.

Cover with a warm cloth and leave in a warm place eg. in front of the fire till it's risen to twice its original size.

Then take it out of the bowl and knead it. You can tell when it's kneaded properly by cutting the dough with a sharp knife. If the honeycomb effect on the cut edge is small it is ready, if it's big it needs more kneading. If at any stage it seems too wet or too dry add a little more flour or a little more water.

Divide it into three and put into 3 greased 1lb tins. Cover again with the cloth and leave till it's risen to twice the size again ie. filling the tin and about an inch above the top.

Bake at 350 (Gas 4) for about 20 minutes, then turn it down to 325 (Gas 3) for another 40 minutes or until it's ready. You can tell if it's ready by tapping the underneath of the loaf. If it sounds hollow, it's ready.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

NEW LONGSIGHT ADVICE CENTRE ON HOUSING, CLEARANCE, ETC. - at the Longsight Methodist Centre, Stockport Rd. Staffed by Pip Cotterill and John Hargreaves from the Social Services Dept. Between 10am - 12 noon Mon. and Thurs.; and from 6 - 8pm Tues. All queries on housing welcome.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE NOW - at 178 Oxford Road. Open Mon: - Fri. between 12.45pm - 8pm. Or phone 273-4575.

MOBILE LIBRARY - Comes to Meldon Road, every Wed. from 10am -6.30pm.

IF YOU NEED HELP - filling in forms of any sort, call at No. 10 Beresford Road.

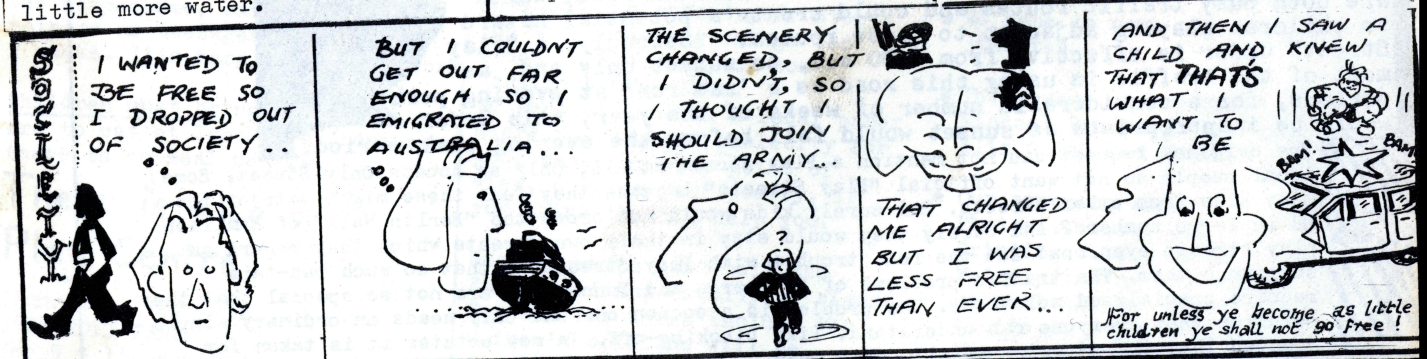
ANOTHER HOUSE SAVED

No. 46 Slade Grove, owned by the Corporation, was recently going to be bricked up. Nearby residents persuaded the Town Hall to change its mind by occupying the house until they agreed to put a family in. This is the second Corporation house in the Slade Grove Clearance Area saved from being made unusable by this method.

FREE SOLICITORS' ADVICE

A group of solicitors will give free legal advice on any matter to anyone if a new scheme being set-up by the Law Society gets under way. The solicitors will work at Longsight Town Hall, near Plymouth Grove. Firstly however, the building will be renovated.

Decorating inside and out and household repairs including glazing, pointing, electrical work. 19 Duncan Rd.


SOCIETY
I WANTED TO BE FREE SO I DROPPED OUT OF SOCIETY..
BUT I COULDN'T GET OUT FAR ENOUGH SO I EMIGRATED TO AUSTRALIA...
THE SCENERY CHANGED, BUT I DIDN'T, SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD JOIN THE ARMY..
THAT CHANGED ME ALRIGHT BUT I WAS LESS FREE THAN EVER...
AND THEN I SAW A CHILD AND KNEW THAT THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO BE
Bam! Bam!
For unless ye become as little children ye shall not go free!

CLEARANCE AREA LATEST NEWS

RESULT OF SLADE LANE/SLADE GROVE PUBLIC INQUIRY

STAYING UP

ALL OF SLADE GROVE

ALL OF CLITHEROE ROAD

2 TO 16 (EVEN) DUNCAN ROAD

26 TO 36 (EVEN)
3 TO 15 (ODD)
SNOOKER HALL
} SLADE LANE

95 TO 105 (ODD) HAMILTON ROAD

COMING DOWN

ALL OF DRISCOLL STREET

22 TO 42 (EVEN)
21 TO 43 (ODD)
} DUNCAN ROAD

22 TO 42 (EVEN) PALM STREET

21 TO 29 (ODD) SLADE LANE

113 TO 135 (ODD) HAMILTON ROAD

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS, PLEASE CALL AT
23 Clitheroe Road 3 - 5 Mondays or Wednesdays or 7 - 9p.m. Fridays